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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U.S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



November 15, 1950 SS-96

Favorable Weather Improves Late Crops

Ideal conditions last month for maturing and harvesting brought improvement in quality and quantity of most late-maturing crops.

Aggregate Up A Fourth From '23-32 Average

All-crop production still stands at one-fourth larger than the '23-32 average—improvements in the late crops not enough to change the overall output. Present all-crop estimate is close to the average of the last 5 excellent crop years.

Grain Sorghum, Soybeans, Sugar Beets, Record Crops

Sharp increase in sorghum grain prospects makes it a record crop. Other record crops are soybeans and sugar beets. Improved significantly during October were prospects for peanuts, beans, soybeans and rice. Smaller gains were made from the month before for cotton, tobacco, sugar beets, apples, pears, grapes, cranberries, and pecans.

Yields Per Acre 51 Percent Above '23-32 Average

Yields per acre are high. Composite yield index (28 major crops) is 141 percent of the '23-32 base, close to the '49 yield and otherwise exceeded only by the 151 percent in '48. . . new high per-acre yields for rice, sorghum grain and potatoes, with yields per acre of barley, all hay, soybeans, peanuts, tobacco, sweet-potatoes and sugar beets second highest of record.

Conditions Good For Starting Next Year's Crops

Conditions to Nov. 1 were mostly satisfactory to ideal for seeding, germination, and growth. Fall-sown grains, new meadows, and cover crops made excellent progress. Fall seeding was well advanced in most areas. . . good stands developing well.

Corn Crop 3.1 Billion Bushels—Little Soft Corn

There is less soft corn than previously feared, though the new corn production estimate is 13 million bushels less than was forecast in October. Decreases in East North Central States more than offset increases in other parts of the country. But the crop, in round numbers, is still estimated at 3.1 billion bushels, compared with 3.4 billion last year and 2.9 billion 10-year average. Yield per acre is 37.4 bushels, topping average by 4.5 bushels.

Peanut Crop Off A Little From Last Year

Peanut crop for picking and threshing, at 1.8 billion pounds, is 6 percent less than last year and 9 percent less than the 10-year average.

Soybean Crop Up Nearly A Third From Last Year

The estimated 281-million bushel crop of soybeans is 2 percent larger than forecast last month and is the largest on record. It tops last year's near-record crop by 27 percent. 10-year average crop only 164.5 million.

Cotton Forecast Slightly Higher Than Month Ago

The 9,945,000 bales of cotton now forecast is 76,000 bales more than was forecast in October. Improved prospects west of the Mississippi more than offset decreases in eastern areas.

Tobacco Crop Forecast At 2 Billion Pounds

The tobacco crop estimate of 2,013 million pounds

compares with 1,970 million pounds produced last year and is up 3 percent from the forecast a month ago.

Near Record Crop of Rice

Rice crop estimate is 3 percent larger than the October forecast. The estimated 38 million 100-pound bags is only 5 percent smaller than last year's record 40.1 million bags; tops 10-year average by 28 percent.

Estimates of Other Crops, With Comparisons

Wheat, 1,010 million bushels. Production last year, 1,146 million; average, 1,031 million.
Oats, 1,484 million bushels. Last year, 1,323 million; average, 1,274 million.
Barley, 300 million bushels. Last year, 238.1 million; average, 310.7 million.
Rye, 22.5 million bushels. Last year, 18.7 million; average, 32.2 million.
Buckwheat, 4.7 million bushels. Last year, 5.2 million; average, 7 million.
Flaxseed, 35.2 million bushels. Last year, 43.7 million; average, 34.8 million.
Rice, 38 million bags (100 lbs.). Last year, 40.1 million; average, 29.8 million.
Sorghum grain, 196.3 million bushels. Last year, 152.6 million; average, 108.8 million.
Hay (all), 107.9 million tons. Last year, 99.3 million; average, 100.3 million.
Beans, (dry edible, 100 lbs.), 16.4 million bags. Last year, 21.6 million; average, 17.4 million.
Peas, (dry field, 100 lbs.), 2.9 million bags. Last year, 3.3 million; average, 5.8 million.
Soybeans, 281.1 million bushels. Last year, 222.3 million; average, 164.5 million.
Potatoes, 430.6 million bushels. Last year, 402.0 million; average, 403.3 million.
Sweetpotatoes, 59.5 million bushels. Last year, 54.2 million; average, 61.8 million.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Sept. 15, 1950	Oct. 15, 1950	Oct. 15, 1950
Wheat, bu.dol.	1.94	1.91	2.27
Corn, bu.dol.	1.44	1.37	1.65
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.9	10.7	12.3
Cotton, lb.ct.	39.98	38.90	31.87
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.05	.858	1.80
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	21.10	19.20	19.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	24.70	24.30	17.70
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	28.00	27.50	19.90
Lams, 100 lb.dol.	25.60	25.80	19.50
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 61.3	1/ 60.9	72.3
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1 1/2 3.89	1 1/3 3.96	4.52
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	24.5	22.7	29.8
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 36.4	1/ 36.6	52.5

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.
2/ Revised.
3/ Preliminary.

Sugarcane, (sugar and seed), 7.3 million tons. Last year, 6.8 million; average, 5.9 million.

Sugar beets, 13.5 million tons. Last year, 10.2 million; average, 9.9 million.

Broomcorn, 26 thousand tons. Last year, 44 thousand; average, 41 thousand.

Hops, 58.3 million pounds. Last year, 50.7 million; average, 45.8 million.

Apples, 120.5 million bushels. Last year, 133.7 million; average, 109.4 million.

Peaches, 52.4 million bushels. Last year, 74.8 million; average, 70 million.

Pears, 30.8 million bushels. Last year, 36.4 million; average, 30.3 million.

Grapes, 2.5 million tons. Last year, 2.7 million; average, 2.8 million.

Cherries (12 States), 231 thousand tons. Last year, 250 thousand; average, 179 thousand.

Apricots, (3 States), 198 thousand tons. Last year, 198 thousand; average, 234 thousand.

Pecans, 110.7 million pounds. Last year, 128.2 million; average, 121.0 million.

Bigger Than Average Crop of Oranges

Early and mid-season oranges (1950-51 crop) are expected to total about 51 million boxes—slightly less than the '49-50 crop but 14 percent more than average. The Valencia crop in Florida, Texas, and Arizona will total about 29.4 million boxes, topping last season by 13 percent and average by 38 percent. New crop California Valencias will be forecast in December. Florida tangerine crop will be close to last year's production.

Grapefruit Crop Better Than Last Season

Grapefruit production (exclusive of California summer crop) is forecast at 47 million boxes. This is 34 percent above last season but 4 percent below average.

More Lemons Than Last Year

California lemon crop is estimated at 12.5 million boxes compared with 10.5 million boxes produced last season.

Big Crop of Cranberries

The estimated 968,500 barrels of cranberries produced in the 5 States of Mass., N. J., Wis., Wash., and Oregon will exceed last year's crop by 128,100 barrels and will top the average by 253,920 barrels.

Feed Grain Tonnage Close to Last Year

Feed grains produced this year will total 123 million tons, topping all previous years except '46, '48, and '49. 124 million tons were produced in '46; 138 million in '48; and 126 million in '49.

Food Grain Tonnage Down From Recent Years

The 33 million tons of food grains is somewhat less than in any of the past 6 years of high production.

Big Food Supplies Ahead

Food supplies for U. S. consumers are expected to be larger next year than in '50. Large carry-over stocks from this year's output plus an expected high level output next year—engendered in part by high purchasing power and strong demand—would add up to a high total never before reached. Production of livestock products—meat, eggs, poultry, and dairy products—especially expected to be large for '51.

All Grains to Total 156 Million Tons

Production of all grains—wheat, oats, barley and rye already harvested, with corn, sorghum, rice and buckwheat—totals over 156 million tons, exceeded only in '46, '48 and '49.

Roughage Plentiful

Hay and roughage supplies on farms (including feeds from grazing) are larger than average.

Milk Production Holds Steady

Milk production in October declined less than usual for the season. Production was estimated at 9 billion pounds, nearly the same as a year ago. Production first 10 months of this year totaled 103.6 billion pounds—the highest total in any previous similar period, except in '45 when the production reached nearly 105 billion pounds.

New Records in Egg Production

A record rate of lay and the largest October egg production of all time are reported. The 4 billion eggs laid in October topped production a year ago by 6 percent and the '39-48 average by 37 percent.

Somewhat Larger Laying Flock

Nation's farm laying flock averaged 360.3 million layers in October—up 3 percent from year ago and 8 percent from average.

Prices Received, Down; Prices Paid, Steady

Index of prices received by farmers in October, at 268 percent of the 1910-14 base period, was down 4 points, or over 1 percent from a month earlier. Sharp decline in hog prices; more moderate declines in prices of most crops. Prices paid index (including interest, taxes and wage rates) at 261, was the same as in September (revised)—close to the record high of 262 reached in mid-'48. Prices received are down 38 index points from the record of 306 reached early in '48.

Business Activity Near Record

Except during World War II, the economy is operating at the highest rate in history. The domestic economy is expected to continue to operate at a high rate through '51 and probably well into '52. Industrial output this year has averaged 12 percent above '49 and is almost double the '35-39 average.

Farms Use Fewer Workers—Total Employment Up

Farm employment in the U. S. continues, as in previous months, about 5 percent under a year earlier. Total at work on farms in October was 12,298,000—about 3 million hired workers plus more than 9 million farm family workers. Total civilian employment in October was 61.8 million, up from 61.2 million in September. The total a year ago was 59 million.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	October 1950
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	268
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	261
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	103
Wholesale prices of food	'10-14=100	1/ 270
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 269
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 427
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 264
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Oct. 1949	Jan.-Oct. 1950
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	102.1	103.6
Eggs, (bil.).....	48.0	51.3
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 5290	4/ 5215
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 388	4/ 402
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 6857	4/ 7299
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 13070	4/ 13412
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ September figure.		
3/ October 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ January to September under Federal Inspection.		